

# DOINGWHATWORKS



Slideshow

FULL DETAILS AND TRANSCRIPT

**More Time for Learning**

Topic: Increased Learning Time: Beyond the Regular School Day

## Highlights

- Schools often seek ways to provide more time for learning to raise student achievement.
- Schools need to develop an approach based on key goals such as raising achievement in core subjects or providing enrichment programs that will strengthen student engagement in learning.
- Schools may add time before or after school, during weekends, or during the summer. Schools may expand the regular school day for all students or provide an out-of-school program to a subset of students. Some schools might be able to offer a combination of increased-learning-time options.

## Full Transcript

Presentation title: More Time for Learning

Title slide text:

Additional learning time can be an effective way to improve student academic outcomes. To date, schools around the nation provide a wide range of additional-learning-time opportunities varying from longer school days to after-school programs and summer schools. This range represents variations also in program purpose, operations, and associated costs. Schools need to consider all existing models and variations within models before choosing an approach.

### Slide 1: Expanded-learning-time schools

Schools can choose to add time to the school day or additional days to the school year. Students automatically participate in the additional learning time since it is part of the regular school day. The additional time may translate to additional instructional support, more enrichment activities, and increased professional development and collaboration for teachers. This strategy provides students with additional time to master the adopted curricula and benefit from existing assessment practices. It also reduces the need to coordinate a separate program with regular-school-day instruction.

### Slide 2: After-school programs

After-school programs are a common way to provide targeted academic support to struggling students. Because these programs almost always serve smaller numbers of children than the school as a whole, they can make effective use of resources that are less easily available during the school day, such as computers, labs, and classroom space. Additionally, volunteers, including adults and older students, are usually more available to assist with academic and enrichment activities after school than during school hours.

### Slide 3: Benefits and challenges

After-school programs may operate for longer hours than schools with expanded days. During those hours, the programs can provide a safe haven and a choice of enrichment opportunities. Schools can seek grants and contract with an outside provider to deliver the programs, but they need to ensure that the after-school programs are aligned with the school-day instruction, have qualified personnel, and provide appropriate instructional materials and curricula.

#### Slide 4: Summer programs

Summer programs are especially beneficial for students who have limited opportunities for summer learning and enrichment experiences. Students can practice basic skills, take field trips, and do hands-on activities. Summer programs may also reduce learning loss. Schools will need to find a place to meet, determine hours of operation, employ the necessary qualified staff, and develop an engaging and enriching program.

#### Slide 5: Weekend learning programs

Weekends also offer opportunities for structured and enriching learning activities, and may make it more likely that parents will get involved in various activities. Additionally, these programs may be able to use community facilities that are not available during the week.

#### Slide 6: Cost components

The cost components of increased-learning-time models include determination of staff and their skills; how staff will be compensated for their work; professional development for staff; additional building maintenance; electricity, telephone, and other utilities; transportation; supplementary curricular materials; and costs associated with upgrading or modifying school facilities, if they do not have appropriate lighting for early or late hours or air conditioning for summer months.

#### Slide 7: Integrated programs

The determination of an increased-learning-time model should be based on data on current use of time at the school; the goals of the increased learning time; students' and families' needs; and staffing, funding, and implementation partners that are available. Districts and schools may combine models of increased learning time to address the needs of students and their families and provide high-quality programming that engages and inspires all students.